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*great elevations*, where the reaction is very minute, only two fluctuations would be found in the day: the maximum at about two o'clock, P. M., when most air would be above the barometer; and the minimum at daylight in the morning, when least air would be above it; but I know of no observations to confirm or refute these deductions."

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Mr. Ball brought under the notice of the Academy the fact, that the ordinary sturgeon of the Dublin markets is an undescribed species. He stated that Mr. Thompson of Belfast, and Professor Agassiz, concurred with him in this opinion, and he proposed to call it *Accipenser Thompsoni*, purposing, if permitted, to give figures and full descriptions in a future number of the Proceedings.

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A notice of an unpublished Irish coin of Edward IV. was read by A. Smith, M.D., M.R.I.A.

"Within the last month some workmen were employed in cleaning one of the city drains in the Cross Poddle, and a few coins were found. Among them was one of no intrinsic value, and apparently of no interest whatever. It is made of brass, and was originally plated with silver, traces of which still remain. On one side it has a crown within a circle of pellets, outside which, in place of a legend, are crosses and roses alternately; on the other side it has the common type—a cross, with three pellets in each quarter; the legend is defaced. It weighs nearly five grains, and is now in the cabinet of Lieutenant-Colonel Weld Hartstonge.

"This little coin bears no evidence in itself which would enable us to say to what king's reign it should be appropriated, or even to what country. But on referring to an Act passed in the second year of Edward IV., at a parliament held in Dublin, we find it enacted, 'that a coyne of copper mixed with silver, be made within the Castle of Dublin, having on one side the print of a cross, and on the other part a crown, of which four shall be taken for a penny; and that the said

coyne shall have graven within the circumference of the said cross, the name of the place where it was made; and on the other part *suns and roses in the circumference of the said crowne.*\*

“It is to be regretted, that this little coin, the only one of the kind which has been found, is not in better preservation; but such as it is, it corresponds in every particular with the description in the Act; and, therefore, we do not hesitate to assert that it is one of the farthings of mixed metal ordered to be made in 1462.

“It may be objected, that this coin has crosses instead of suns round the crown, and it would be difficult indeed to give a more accurate symbol of the sun, in so many places, within so limited a space; but we should recollect, that similar crosses occur on some of the silver groats of Edward IV., coined in Dublin, in the beginning of his reign. On these groats, immediately over the crown, on the obverse, are placed three small crosses, which have usually been considered as privy marks.†

“Now taking for granted, that these crosses on the groats were intended to represent suns, as they evidently were on the farthing, we suspect we can account for them, not only as privy marks, indicating that the coins on which they are found belong to Edward IV., but also assign a probable reason why *three* only should appear.

“The sun was first introduced by Edward IV. upon the coins, ‘in commemoration of an extraordinary appearance in the heavens, immediately before the battle of Mortimer’s Cross, in Herefordshire, (in 1461,) where *three suns* were seen which shone for a time, and then were suddenly conjoined in one.’‡

“It matters little whether the extraordinary phenomenon

\* Simon’s Essay on Irish Coins, Appendix, No. VII.

† Simon, pl. 4, fig. 71.

‡ Ruding’s Annals of the Coinage, vol. ii. p. 359, 2nd Edition, 8vo.

just alluded to be explained or not ; it is sufficient for our purpose to know, that it gave rise to the introduction of the sun as a privy mark on the coins of Edward ; and we may be permitted to hazard the conjecture, that the three crosses on his Irish groats, coined shortly after the battle of Mortimer's Cross, were intended to represent the *three suns*.

“ We could refer to many instances in which dates and other matters were determined with certainty, by studying with attention minute particulars in the type of coins, concerning which the records were unsatisfactory, or altogether wanting ; and there are still in existence authentic records of more than one Irish coinage, specimens of which have not yet been discovered ; and within the last few years numerous coins, whose existence had not been suspected, have come to light, for the preservation of many of which we are indebted to the indefatigable zeal and research of a highly esteemed and deeply lamented individual, whose memory will long be regarded with respect and admiration, and the recollection of whose labours in preserving the proud memorials of our country, will, we trust, be perpetuated by depositing within these walls his collection of Irish antiquities, in accordance with his well known intention, and thus constituting a monument worthy of the late Dean of St. Patrick's.”

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The Archbishop of Dublin made some observations on a remarkable meteor, lately seen in different parts of Britain.

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Resolved—That the Committee of Antiquities be requested to take immediate steps towards opening a subscription for the purchase of the collection of Irish antiquities which belonged to the late Dean of St. Patrick's.

#### DONATIONS.

*Memoires de l'Academie Imperiale des Sciences de St. Petersbourg.* Tome I.—XI.